



MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS

February 7, 2002

The Honorable Representative Huizenga
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Representative Huizenga and Members of the Committee:

As you may know, our firm represents both McDonald's Corporation and the Michigan McDonald's Owner/Operator Association. We have represented them for over 20 years.

SB 179 (Sen. Stamas) is long overdue. As you know, it says that no 16 or 17 year old can work more than 20 hours per week. This is a change from the convoluted current system that provides for a combination of 48 hours of classroom instruction and work hours per week.

McDonald's has over 500 restaurants in Michigan, and is the largest employer of youth in the state. We would hope that you pass this legislation for 3 main reasons:

1. Michigan will still be one of the most protective states in the country when it comes to work standards for 16 and 17 year olds. Currently, 30 states have no limitation on work hours for 16 and 17 year olds whatsoever. Seventeen states have some form of limitation on hours per week but the average is 36 hours of work for this age group of youths.
2. Parents still have the final say in how many hours their sons and daughters work per week. The 20 hours is a maximum. McDonald's operators would be the first to tell you that good students make better employees. They do not want their employees to fail academically.
3. The current combined 48 hours between classroom instruction and work is too confusing since a McDonald's restaurant will often employ students from several different high schools who all have slightly different combinations. SB 179 puts 20 hours in as a ceiling that is much easier to follow for the students, their parents, and the employers.

We would hope that you pass this legislation that is a far more sensible way of dealing with work hours for students. Thank you for your consideration. I would be more than willing to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fritz Benson'.

Fritz Benson